



State of Tennessee Department of Children's Services

Administrative Policies and Procedures: 27.35-DOE

Subject: Use of Mechanical Restraints

supersedes: DYD 9.15

Approved by:

Effective date:

07/01/90

Authority:

TCA 37-5-106

ACA Standard:

2-9190, 2-9193, 2-9196

- I. APPLICATION: To all employees of Youth Development Centers.
- II. POLICY: The use of mechanical restraints on a youth shall be a temporary measure and shall not continue longer than is absolutely necessary to prevent the serious bodily injury of youths and/or staff and/or substantial damage to facility property. The use of mechanical restraints shall be fully documented and reported and shall never be applied as punishment.
- III. PROCEDURES :
- A. Mechanical restraints shall be applied in a manner which is not injurious to the youth and used, only in the following instances:
1. As a precaution against escape during the movement of a youth who presents a high risk for escape within a facility or when transporting a youth outside the facility.
 2. To prevent self-injury to a youth;
 3. To prevent injury to another youth or staff member;
 4. When a youth is causing substantial destruction to property and cannot otherwise be restrained;

5. For medical reasons, when authorized by a physician or by medical staff under the guidance of a protocol authorized by the responsible facility physician.
- B. Each Superintendent shall designate in writing those staff members authorized to approve the use of mechanical restraints and those staff members authorized to routinely carry mechanical restraints.
- C. Superintendents shall ensure that all staff members authorized to apply mechanical restraints are properly trained in the use of such restraints.
- D. Each use of mechanical restraints must have the prior approval of the Superintendent or designee.
- E. In an emergency situation, the use of mechanical restraints shall be reported, as soon as possible and in no event longer than one hour, to the staff member authorized to approve such use.
- F. The use of mechanical restraints shall be a temporary measure and shall not continue for longer than is necessary. Youths shall not remain in mechanical restraints in excess of three (3) continuous hours except as prescribed in Section III (G).
- G. Prior approval to use mechanical restraints while transporting a youth must be obtained from the Superintendent or designee. This approval must document the reason(s) why mechanical restraints are necessary in the specific circumstances. Mechanical restraints shall be removed as soon as possible after the youth has arrived at his/her destination.
- H. While the youth is in mechanical restraints, he/she shall remain under the constant visual supervision of a staff member. The supervising staff member shall check the mechanical restraints every 15 minutes. This provision shall not apply when the youth is being transported, however, the youth should be checked each time the vehicle is stopped.
- I. Mechanical restraints shall never be applied as punishment or used in a manner so as to cause any unnecessary discomfort for the youth.
- J. Each incident of use of mechanical restraints shall be reported on *Use of Mechanical Restraints* form (CS-0033) by the person applying the restraints. The report will be submitted to the Superintendent for review and a copy placed in the youth's file. Copies of all Use of Mechanical Restraints Forms shall be forwarded to the Director of Youth Development Centers.

FORMS: CS-0033

**(Note: This Policy Cannot Be Revised Without Prior Permission
of Chancery Court, Davidson County, Nashville, Tennessee.)**